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Hope to Strengthen Weak DPA In Conference

ICFTU Opposes U.S. Bid to Spain as Hurting the West

Brussels.—General Secretary J. H. Oldenbroek of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions cabled the following protest to Secretary of State Dean Acheson:

"International Confederation of Free Trade Unions strongly protests against current efforts to include Spain in western defense system whether directly or indirectly through bilateral arrangements between United States and Dictator Franco.

"ICFTU second world congress just completed in Milan unanimously voted resolution opposing any association with Franco Spain. Measures contemplated can only harm the cause of democracy in its struggle against Communist totalitarianism.

"We consider that the exclusively military advantages which might result would be far outweighed by the adverse reaction throughout the democratic world.

"It would be a tragic error for the western democracies to barter away the moral basis of their alliance."

The AFL delegation to Milan joined in approval of the ICFTU resolution against Franco. The AFL has repeatedly asked Mr. Acheson to refrain from giving any help to Franco Spain and Peronista Argentine but to no avail.

The late Admiral Forrest P. Sherman reportedly had worked out an agreement with Franco for setting up U. S. naval and air bases in Spain.

Copies of the telegram were sent to M. Schuman and Herbert Morrison, the French and British Foreign Ministers. The covering letters to the Foreign Ministers expressed the hope "that your government will not associate themselves with steps that the American government seems ready to undertake and which . . . would practically destroy the moral basis of the democratic western alliance."

In addition, the protest has been circulated to the more than 70 affiliated organizations of the ICFTU with the recommendation that they bring pressure on their governments to oppose any attempt to bring Spain into the community of democratic nations so long as the Franco regime remains in power.

Most Landlords Given Hikes of 17.6 Percent

Washington. — Housing Expediter Tighe E. Woods reported that 86.6 percent of the petitions for rent increases filed by landlords during fiscal 1951 were granted.

The average percentage increase approved was 17.6.

Rents were decontrolled in 390 areas, involving 1,325,140 units and a population of 7,963,650.

The new Defense Production Act permits increases in rents up to 20 per cent above the 1947 level.

Out of 1,098,967 petitions processed by local rent offices across the nation, 962,980 were granted, increasing rents on 1,388,288 residential units, an average of $6.25 per month.

The sum of $2,799,316 was refunded to tenants and $155,123 was paid to the U. S. Treasurer in 25,219 compliance cases during the same period. Also, 19,630 reduced service violations were remedied along with 61,238 other miscellaneous violations.

SIGN 37 NEW CONTRACTS

Hollywood, Calif.—The AFL Screen Actors Guild announces the signing of collective bargaining contracts with 37 new motion picture companies, majority of which are engaged in making television films.

Green Praises Longshoremen Refusal To Handle Slave Labor Products

New York.—AFL President William Green commended members of the International Longshoremen of America "for refusing to handle the slave-labor products of the enemy."

Speaking to the ILA convention, Mr. Green referred to the union's refusal in the past 2 years to unload Russian crabmeat, furs and lumber products produced by millions of slaves behind the Iron Curtain.

Mr. Green praised the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions for turning down a phony bid from the Communist World Federation of Free Trade Unions.

He warned Congress that its failure to pass a strong, workable Defense Production Act may lead to an inflation threatening to wreck the nation's internal economy. Mr. Green said in part:

"The ICFTU, of which the American Federation of Labor is proud to be one of the founding members, said to the Communist labor front, in effect:

"'You cannot join with us until you first abolish the hateful practice of slave labor. You cannot merge with us until you permit free trade unions, free of government domination. You cannot work with us until you give up the right to make war against us and agree to submit to peaceful procedures for settling disputes. You cannot mingle with us until you lift the Iron Curtain and allow us to mingle with your people. You cannot fraternize with us unless you renounce force and conform to the rules of human justice.'

"To my mind, those terms represent a minimum demand from the free world to Russia as the basis for permanent peace and amity. We have no quarrel with the Russian people. We have no wish to interfere with any way of life they freely choose. And finally, we have no designs upon Soviet Russia as a nation, so long as she abstains from any aggressive designs against us.

"It would be optimistic to expect any settlement upon such terms with Russia in the immediate future. The present Communist leaders are doomed to learn the hard way that they cannot wipe out human freedom. But providence has its own immutable ways of disposing of individuals and movements inimicable to the progress of the human race. And a few more defeats, like that in Korea, may hasten the process of bringing Soviet Russia to her senses.

"One thing is certain—we in America cannot afford to let down our defenses as long as the Communists pursue their aggressive course."

JOHN K. MESKIMEN

Washington.—Member AFL Brotherhood of Railway Clerks takes oath as United Labor Policy Committee representative on the staff of Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle.

SIZE ALONE NOT GOOD

New York.—Great size in business, involving a large degree of concentration, should be permitted only where it can be justified in terms of performance in the public interest, says a Twentieth Century Fund report.

House-Senate Committee Plans Swift Action To Get Final Bill to Truman Before July 31 Deadline for Controls

Washington.—The battle for the strongest possible Defense Production Act entered its final phase in Congress with the appointment of House and Senate conference committees to compromise differences in the 2 weak versions of the bill passed by the 2 houses.

The conferees scheduled their first meeting for July 25 and expected to have a final bill for action before the week end.

Then it will be up to Mr. Truman to approve or veto the measure, which it appears will fall far short of the requests of Mr. Truman and the American Federation of Labor for a strong workable price and rent control law.

Both House and Senate versions of the bill were dictated by the Dixiecrats and Reactionary Republicans in control of this Congress.

The conferees named were:

House — Representatives Brent Spence of Kentucky; Brown, Georgia; Patman, Texas; Rains, Alabama, all Democrats; Jesse Wolcott, Michigan; Gamble, New York; Talle, Iowa, all Republicans. All 3 Republicans voted wrong on every roll call test listed by the AFL in the last Congress.

Senate—Burnet Maybank, South Carolina; Robertson, Virginia; Sparkman, Alabama; Frear, Delaware, all Democrats; Capehart, Indiana; Bricker, Ohio; Ives, New York, all Republicans. Capehart and Bricker voted wrong on every roll call test listed by the AFL in the last Congress.

Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston and other administration leaders expressed the hope that the conferees will produce a stronger bill than either house passed.

"The House bill has some desirable and needed features but it is still far from a good and adequate measure," Mr. Johnston said. "The Senate bill contains not a single one of the many additional powers needed to bulwark our rearmament effort with a strong and sound stabilization program.

"Both bills contain provisions that would seriously weaken the present law and add billions of dollars to consumer and defense costs."

The House completed work on its version of the Defense Production Act by reversing previous teller votes on several amendments when roll calls were taken.

The House defeated the guaranteed profit-high price plans of Reps. Poage, Cole, Halleck and Davis, and also knocked out Dixiecrat Davis' amendment to freeze wages as of July 7 but to let rents and food prices go unregulated. Some big city Republicans, who voted for these proposals in teller count, changed when they had to be recorded.

Since the inside pages of the AFL News Service are printed Friday to provide labor editors with a week end clipsheet service, the controls story on page 3 has been superseded by later House action reversing the teller votes on which that story was based.

DPA Freezes Wages; Lets Prices And Rents Rise; Kills Beef Quotas

Washington.—At a glance, here are the main provisions of the new Defense Production Act as passed by House and Senate with differences still to be reconciled before the July 31 deadline:

WAGES

Both House and Senate voted to keep present tight freeze and tripartite Wage Stabilization Board.

RENTS

Both House and Senate voted to permit 20 percent rent increases over June 30, 1947; make it difficult to recontrol areas now without ceilings.

PRICES

Senate voted to prohibit price rollbacks to a point below the Jan. 25-Feb. 24, 1951 level.

House voted to permit future rollbacks on prices of meats and other Farm committee providing the new ceiling is not less than parity or 90 percent of the May 19, 1951 price.

Both Houses permitted the May rollback of 10 percent in beef prices to stand.

BEEF SLAUGHTERING QUOTAS

Both Houses voted to ban quota system which Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle said is necessary to prevent a black market in beef.

DURATION

House voted to extend law to June 30, 1952 and rent ceilings until July 31, 1952.

Senate voted to extend law until Feb. 29, 1952.

OTHER PROVISIONS

House and Senate voted to kill or deny authority requested by the President on a half-dozen other important controls for the highest possible control over inflationary pressures. On all of these votes the Dixiecrats and Republicans joined to rule the Congress and the nominal Democratic party majority in both houses faded away.

Meany Receives Red Cross Appeal For Flood Disaster Relief Gifts

Washington.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, member of the board of governors of the American National Red Cross, received an appeal for donations from Red Cross President E. Roland Harriman for flood relief work in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois.

Mr. Harriman told Mr. Meany that 180,420 persons were affected. More than 12,000 of the 45,000 families had already registered with the Red Cross for shelter, relief and rehabilitation.

"Because of the unprecedented size of the disaster, the organization is making its first general disaster fund appeal for $5 million since the 1938 New England hurricane," Mr. Harriman said. "As you know the operating funds of the organization were not brought to full strength this year because of our failure to reach our campaign goal in March."

Mr. Harriman said the repairing and rebuilding of homes and helping families to get back on their feet is just beginning.

AFL members can make contributions through their local Red Cross chapters or send cash directly to the National Red Cross Flood Disaster Relief Fund, Washington, D. C.

Unions Aid White Collar Labor

By MAURICE J. TOBIN
Secretary of Labor

(Excerpts from address before AFL Retail Clerks International Association 21st Convention.)

Washington.—The Retail Clerks International Association is out at the frontier of the American labor movement, where the struggle to organize the unorganized must be carried on with the greatest courage and determination.

The frontier of the American labor movement is the 15,000,000 white collar workers of the United States.

That's the challenge to American labor. That's where it must concentrate its energy and its strength.

Less than 2,000,000 of the 15,000,000 white collar workers are members of labor unions. These workers need organized labor; and organized labor needs them.

Your own union operates in only one part of the white collar field. It has set its sights on the 4,000,000 workers in the retail trades.

The organizing job among retail sales people and in the entire white collar field has only begun. The executive council of the American Federation of Labor acknowledged last year that "We have hardly scratched the surface."

That's serious. It's serious because white collar workers are becoming an ever-larger part of the American labor force.

Ten years ago there were less than 11,000,000 of them, and they made up slightly more than 24 percent of all employed workers in the country. Today, there are more than 15,000,000, and they make up nearly 28 percent of all employed workers. The number of white collar workers is steadily growing; and American labor has got to keep up with it.

I've said that these workers need organized labor. Let me explain what I mean. The average weekly earnings of production workers in industry have gone up 170 percent since 1939. The average weekly earnings of clerical and professional workers have gone up only 92 percent.

The average factory worker, in March of this year, was making $64.33 a week, or $1.57 an hour. The average worker in your own field, retail trade, was making $48.95 or $1.24 an hour. A part of the superior wage position of the factory worker, I am convinced, is due to the strength of his labor unions.

But unionism for white collar workers isn't only important because it brings higher wages and better working conditions. It's important also because it gives the worker an opportunity to participate in deciding what those wages and working conditions should be. It makes him a citizen of his firm or factory with a democratic right to a voice in its affairs. He isn't just a number on a time card. He's a man who has his say, through his elected representatives, in the way things are run.

There are a lot of white collar workers who still turn up their noses at the benefits of trade unionism. They do it out of a kind of snobbishness; a feeling that unions are for factory workers, and that factory workers are beneath them. They don't want to degrade the white collar by coming to the same labor movement with workers who wear overalls.

You would have thought that kind of thinking went out with the horse and buggy. You would have thought that kind of snobbishness was reserved for people who had something to be snobbish about. And the unorganized white collar workers haven't. Not a thing.

I have said that organized labor needs white collar workers, just as white collar workers need organized labor. Many of these workers, particularly in the technical and professional groups, have background and experience and training that can prove tremendously valuable to the labor movement. Their academic training and their intellectual approach can supplement the experience and practical wisdom of the seasoned trade unionists. I believe that white collar workers can help to make trade unions more responsible.

I want to talk for a moment about one problem of organization in your own retail field. That's the problem of turnover. You know what a tremendous problem that is. By the time you get a group of clerks organized, a large number of them have left their jobs and you have to start all over again with the newcomers. The organizers have to work day and night to keep up with the turnover. One of them has said it's like pouring water into a sieve.

No union can continue to organize at that rate for very long. And, of course, no store wants to be the arena for a constant, never-ending organizing campaign. So the stores and the unions, through collective bargaining, have worked out an answer. And the answer is the union shop.

The union shop fits a particular problem of retail trade establishments; and, in my opinion, it belongs in union contracts in that field. Employers like it because it does away with constant organizing. It also does away with friction between union members and the "free-riders" who won't join.

HAIL RETAIL CLERKS GROWTH.—Washington.—L. to r., Screen Star Edward Arnold, Retail Clerks Secretary-Treasurer James A. Suffridge, AFL President William Green, and Clerks President Vernon Housewright pose for photo at Clerks 21st Convention. Mr. Green praised Clerks 20 percent growth in last 4 years and Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin urged all white collar workers to join unions to get higher wages. Mr. Arnold appears in Clerks' educational film, "A Watch for Joe."

Dockers Meeting in Greece Report Mediterranean Safe From Commies

Salonika, Greece.—The Mediterranean Committee of seamen and dockers unions issued a call for intensified action against communist terror, and for removal of communists from important public jobs.

In a 6-day conference in this eastern port, the committee, a fighting detachment of the International Transport Workers Federation, reinforced its lines of defense against aggressive designs of Soviet agents.

Meeting in the shadow of Macedonian mountains where today communist guerillas still wage sporadic war, this group of free trade unionists made 3 especially significant declarations:

1. Stalinist saboteurs and communist-led dockers have been defeated on the wharves of western Europe.

2. The committee is expanding its organization rapidly.

3. The committee is looking eastward, to the strategic regions including Greece and Turkey.

The Mediterranean Committee urged that Greece and Turkey be admitted into the Atlantic Pact.

The voice of the committee was the voice of dockers' and seamen's representatives of France, Italy, Trieste, Greece, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, under the militant leadership of Pierre Ferri-Pisani, secretary-general of the Interfederation of Seamen and Dockers of the Force Ouvriere organization of France.

This voice is emphatic in the principal resolution adopted in the Salonika conference:

1. Since the committee met at Marseilles last January, the communists have been unable to block the unloading of arms cargoes for free Europe's defenses.

2. The committee will endeavor to liberate transport workers completely from the communist terror.

3. Communist elements must be dug out of important posts they still hold in public office and public works.

4. It must be made impossible for communist cells to prepare sabotage, especially aboard ships, in the ports and at airports.

In another resolution the committee denounced the Soviet system as a regime of slavery, terror and oppression and called on all workers to fight to prevent further Stalinist domination.

The conferees were able to recount numerous instances of victory over passive or active Stalinist sabotage against cargoes on the wharves of Marseilles, Bordeaux, Algiers and Oran.

It was evident that Ferri-Pisani and his aides are counting on cooperation in eastern waters and on eastern wharves—in speeches there was mention of Turkey and Syria and Egypt and Israel.

Most Union Members Join Because They Want Unions

Chicago.—The majority of union members joined because of their convictions that they must and need the union.

That is the first finding by a research report of the Industrial Relations Center of the University of Chicago. The report is based on extensive interviewing of the leadership, active members and inactive members of a large local union in the Chicago area.

The great majority of union members were found to have joined the union with some degree of conviction, due to family background, earlier work or union experience, or experiences within the plant.

Others joined, either without conviction or despite their opposition to unionism, as a result of the informal pressure of their fellow workers within the plant.

Still others joined only when a dues inspection line barred entrance to the mill, though many of these were entirely sympathetic to unionism. Their reasons for joining the union are found in the everyday conditions under which they work and live.

Some of those who joined without conviction later became active members, even leaders of the union; others, however, remained opposed to unionism after years of membership. Their degree of interest in and identification with the union depended on their experiences as union members rather than on their views at the time of joining.

The research work on which the report is based was conducted by Joel Seidman, Jack London, and Bernard Karsh of the Industrial Relations Center staff. An article by them on "Why Workers Join Unions" appeared in the March issue of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. A Carnegie Corporation grant will enable them to continue their study of this and other aspects of unionism at the local level over the next three years.

There's a Movie For Every Meeting

Washington.—The AFL Workers Education Bureau lists more than 50 films—one for every weekly union meeting, and other occasions, too—in a new booklet, "Films for Labor."

Important new AFL labor films, such as the Garment Workers' "With These Hands" and the Retail Clerks' "A Watch for Joe," are included, with a brief description of their content, and information as to how they and others can be rented.

The new pamphlet lists suggested films for organizing, for building unionism, for strike action, for better union meetings, for union education and for understanding world problems.

AFL arrangements on film equipment discounts are explained, along with tips on planning film programs, and film discussion suggestions.

For copies of "Films for Labor" write to American Federation of Labor, 724 9th St. N.W., Washington 1, D. C. Single copies 25c, with quantity discounts.

India Railwaymen Ask AFL Support For Strike For Better Conditions

By RICHARD L-G. DEVERALL
AFL Far Eastern Representative

Calcutta, India.—Over 200 workers met in the village of Baguihati, near Calcutta, on June 17 that the ICFTU and the American Federation of Labor support their strike which began last March.

The workers are under the leadership of Hind Mazdor Sabha leaders Subash Banerjee and Jatin Mitra. Their union is affiliated with ICFTU.

Banerjee, president of the B. B. Light Railwaymen's Union, explained:

"Under the old management of this 40-mile railroad, our 650 workers enjoyed good labor relations. But a share-broker bought into the company, secured working control of the stock, and then ousted the seasoned and experienced railway managers. Labor relations deteriorated, the management of the road suffered, and finally in desperation the workers went out on strike.

"Since March of 1951 we have had no pay and many of our members are starving. But we will not return to work either until the management is replaced by railway-conscious managers, or until the government of India nationalizes the railway and guarantees a fair deal to labor."

This railway strike is symptomatic of the surge of militant unionization now sweeping the railways of India. Although the railway unions of India go back 25 years, their past history was marred by political rivalry.

Today the unions have been solidified through the All India Railwaymen's Federation and, if the demands of this nation-wide union are not met by Aug. 27, there may be a general strike in India's vital railway system.

In the meantime it is hoped that the B. B. Light Railwaymen's strike will end in a just and fair settlement for the militant and heroic workers who, despite starvation, have held their ranks in one of the most remarkable examples of solidarity in modern Indian labor history.

Abolish Your Slave Labor Camps, ICFTU Tells WFTU on Unity Bid

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent AFL News Service

Milan, Italy.—The Second World Congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions ended its sessions with a kick in the teeth of the Communist slave labor movement which came pleading for a united front in a la the new "line" dictated by Moscow.

By the ICFTU's rejection of this phony maneuver proffered by the Communist World Federation of Trade Unions, free labor made plain that there could be no compromise with totalitarianism. The ICFTU decision, made unanimously, was supported by labor delegates from Asia, Africa, Latin America, North America and Europe.

This rejection of the WFTU's attempt to wriggle back into the free labor movement was coupled with a slashing attack against totalitarianism—fascist as well as Communist—which received the same unanimous assent from this congress, speaking for 53 million free workers in more than 60 countries.

Drafted by the AFL delegation, headed by Vice President Matthew Woll and supported by the CIO delegation, headed by Jacob S. Potofsky, the resolution described the Soviet Union as "the wellspring of this menace" of totalitarianism.

A major policy statement was delivered by AFL Vice President William C. Doherty who told the congress that "we are proud of the fact that the AFL for many years has been concerned with and involved in the promotion of free trade unionism on a world scale." The AFL, unlike most of the present ICFTU affiliates, never joined the Communist WFTU when it was formed in 1944.

"Even before the formation of the ICFTU," Mr. Doherty said, "we devoted ourselves to helping and assisting other organizations on their regional basis." He went on to point out we have undertaken such international tasks at a time when there was set up in the United States international as we have today and when the Soviet-dominated WFTU existed.

"This international work of the AFL has extended itself to Asia and the Far East. When the AFL office was set up in Honolulu it was done only after consultation with hundreds of trade unionists who were overwhelmingly opposed to their desire to have such backing from American trade unionists.

"Today the ICFTU exists and we are proud to have given full assistance in bringing about this international as an instrument for the workers to fight for economic and social justice and at the same time to struggle against the common enemy of free trade union rights, namely Soviet totalitarianism. With the constant development of the ICFTU regional bodies throughout the world, there can be no question that any and all international trade union organization work should be done through and with the ICFTU. We of the AFL, the CIO and the United Mine Workers are pledged to devote our full resources to these world-wide activities of the ICFTU."

In another address, President A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters declared that "if we are to deal effectively and successfully with the great problems confronting the world today and especially Soviet totalitarianism we must show a deeper sense of patience with each other and develop unity and cooperation to build a powerful ICFTU."

BUILDING TRADES CONFEREES.—Washington.—L. to r., Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Keenan of AFL Building and Construction Trades Council; John Berni, New Orleans, elected president Southeastern Building Trades Conference; AFL Building Trades Department President Richard J. Gray, and Edward Collier, Atlanta, elected secretary Southeastern Conference, take a breather during 2-day shirt sleeve clinic on strengthening department's work.

PLAN PRICE SURVEY

Washington.—To lay the basis for a program of posted dollar-and-cent "community prices" in the nation's grocery stores, the Office of Price Stabilization shortly will begin a country-wide survey of wholesale and retail grocery costs and prices.

Hike Prices, Guarantee Profits, Freeze Wages

VANISHING BEEF ROAST.—Chicago.—Neil J. Linehan, Chicago district director Office of Price Stabilization and a member of the AFL Electrical Workers, shows members of Chicago Police Wives Association how the Taft-Byrd brand of inflation since 1940 has shrunk the size of the beef roast that homemakers can buy. L. to r., Mrs. Michael McGuire, Mrs. Everett Triberg and Mrs. John Drasites learn that the roast in the center is less than one-half the size of the one on the right that the same money bought in 1944 under OPA.

Dixiecrats-Republicans Vote to Bleed Workers Of Every Penny, Turn the Country Over to the Money-Changers

Washington.—The House of Representatives (God save the mark!) voted to hike prices and guarantee profits but to keep a tight freeze on wages as it neared final passage of a feeble Defense Production Act.

The money-changers in control of the Congress wrote into the bill amendments sponsored by Dixiecrat W. R. Poage of Texas and Reactionary Republican Albert Cole of Kansas which Price Administrator Michael V. DiSalle said will bleed consumers of billions of dollars in higher prices.

The only important point carried by President Truman's leaders in the House was the defeat of the Dixiecrat Wingate Lucas amendment which would have wrecked the Wage Stabilization Board.

But the wrecking of price and rent controls, on which wage stabilization is predicated, may have already wrecked that board anyway.

There seemed virtually no hope that the House would pass a measure which could be used as a basis for strengthening the even weaker bill enacted by the Senate last month.

Across the Capitol, the Senate received a report from its preparedness subcommittee that many landlords around military installations charged gouging rents for unfit hovels, making them guilty of "cruel indignity, irresponsible greed and casual disdain for the self-respect of our men in uniform."

Mr. DiSalle called the Poage amendment a "cost-plus, guaranteed profit device which is the most damaging blow to price controls so far approved by either branch of Congress."

He said under it no stability can be achieved, bread prices will be forced up one half a loaf, and his office will be forced to grant increases assuring profits larger than ever earned by industry.

Poage's amendment requires that any ceiling price on agriculture or processed articles must include the cost of materials, allowance for all processing and other reasonable indirect costs, and a reasonable profit not less than 85 percent of the average for the 3 best years during 1946-49.

Originally Poage's amendment applied only to agriculture but Cole added all manufactured or processed goods. Reactionary Republican Charles A. Halleck obtained passage of an amendment for the producer to pass on all state or local taxes to consumers. Dixiecrat Thomas G. Abernathy put through an amendment killing Administration efforts to fix parity for price control purposes at the beginning of each marketing season.

The united front presented by organized labor against revision of the Wage Stabilization Board was credited with killing off the worst proposal to strip the board of its disputes authority and make it an all-public panel.

Truman May Veto

Washington. — President Truman may veto the patchwork Defense Production Act which wrecks controls when sent to him by Congress.

He told Mrs. C. Irving Guyer, Springfield, Mass., in a letter:

"We will just make a new start and try again.

Mr. Truman vetoed a similar price-wrecking law passed by the 79th Congress in 1946.

July 7 Pay Freeze Voted by House

Washington.—One more stupid and disgraceful exhibition of law-making was given by the House when it voted to freeze wages as of July 7 for 120 days but to let food prices rise to parity and rents go unregulated.

The amendment to the woozy Defense Production Act was sponsored by Dixiecrat James C. Davis of Georgia. On the vote 39 other Dixiecrats and 140 reactionary Republicans voted for the proposal which, in effect, makes the House the Wage Stabilization Board, Office of Price Stabilization and Economic Stabilization Administration.

If It's Prices as Usual, Meany Says, Then It'll Be Wages as Usual, Too

Washington.—"If there is to be business as usual on the prices that workers must pay, then there will be business as usual on wages," AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany told the 21st quadrennial convention of the Retail Clerks International Association.

Mr. Meany spoke 2 days before the House voted for the most fantastic guaranteed profits, high prices scheme ever enacted into law as a part of the Defense Production Act.

Mr. Meany told the Clerks that if Congress passes a weak price and rent control law, organized labor will not go along with wage control.

He charged that some people in Congress believe "a little inflation will do no harm but that it is all right to keep wages under control."

"But I would like to tell them if they don't hold down prices, I can assure them there will be no wage control," he said.

"If a weak controls bill is passed there will be more and more demands from labor for higher wages. I am quite sure that labor is going to use its economic strength to get those demands."

Mr. Meany told the union convention that the current action of Congress in watering down economic controls demonstrated once more that organized labor and wage earners in general have no influence whatever at the Capitol.

"The situation regarding special interest lobbies in Congress is the most deplorable I've ever seen," he said.

"But you can't get any protective legislation up there on the grounds you represent workers. The answer is that labor must meet that threat through political action. Whether or not you like it or believe in it, American labor is going for political action in a big way. Because if it doesn't go into it in a big way, labor will become completely impotent and will be replaced by something like they had in Germany and now have in Russia."

Mrs. Kee 10th Congresswoman

Washington. — Mrs. Maude Elizabeth Kee, the first woman ever elected to the House of Representatives from West Virginia, became the 10th member of her sex in the 82d Congress.

Mrs. Kee was elected to fill the unexpired term of her late husband who was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and long a friend of working people.

Her election gives the House 9 women members. The only woman in the Senate is Mrs. Margaret Chase Smith. Only 3 other Congresses since 1929 have had the top figure of 10 women members.

Hines Asks People Press Congress for 'Point 4' Program

Boston, Mass.—Lewis G. Hines, special representative of AFL President William Green, urged the people to press their congressmen for enactment of the full appropriation for the "Point Four" technical assistance program for underdeveloped countries.

Addressing the summer sessions forum of Boston University, Mr. Hines pointed out that more than 1 billion people live in underdeveloped areas without the bare necessities of existence.

Mr. Hines, a member of the International Development Advisory Board to President Truman, said this population comprises two-thirds of the non-Communist population of the world and their countries are the source of many strategic materials.

The first Point Four appropriation amounted to $35 million. The present request before Congress calls for $85 million. There are 350 technicians at work on 108 projects in 27 countries. Applications for assistance are on hand from 35 governments in Latin America, Africa and Asia, he said.

Most of the projects deal with increasing food supply and improving sanitation.

"If all of our people could thoroughly understand the issues involved," Mr. Hines said, "there is no doubt but that they would urge upon their representatives who are in Congress the enactment of the Point Four program."

By Defense Bonds—keep your old bonds, they are a good investment.

Worker Scarcity Acute in Spots

Washington. — Occupational shortages, especially in professional and skilled fields essential to advancement of the defense program, are now more widespread and troublesome than at any previous time since Korea.

Robert C. Goodwin, executive director Defense Manpower Administration, said the biggest unfilled demand for workers is for mechanical and electrical engineers and draftsmen; machinists; tool and die makers; machine tool operators; skilled aircraft assembly workers; and aircraft, auto, railroad and other types of mechanics and repairmen.

"The impact of defense production upon labor supply has been increasing steadily," Mr. Goodwin said. "The full impact of defense production manpower requirements is still ahead."

MEDIATION SET

Washington.—The National Mediation Board began conferences between the nation's standard railroad brotherhoods and the railroads on the union demand for a union shop.

The unions were given authority by Congress last Jan. 1 to negotiate and sign a contract for the union shop on the carriers.

Only the Great Northern Railway has agreed to a union shop, but the unions believe that a smoother nationwide pattern settlement can be negotiated.

DEPLORE WEAK DEFENSE ACT.—Atlantic City, N. J.—Delegation from the AFL and Railway Labor Executives Association to the Conference of National Organizations deplored the weak Defense Production Act now before Congress which "hamstrings workers by refusing to freeze while Congress refuses to protect them with necessary controls and price rollbacks." L. to r., seated, James A. Brownlow, president AFL Metal Trades Department and chairman of delegation; President Louis P. Marciante of New Jersey State Federation of Labor; President Sal B. Hoffman of Upholsterers International Union; back row, President William Schoenberg of United Cement, Lime and Gypsum Workers; Vice President Thomas F. Holleran of Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes; Capt. W. J. Van Buren, secretary-treasurer Masters, Mates and Pilots; Jesse Clark, president Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen. Not shown, President Lee W. Minton of the Glass Bottle Blowers Association.

Fleischmann Promises Green NPA Help to Prevent Plant Layoffs

Washington.— National Production Administrator Manly Fleischmann promised AFL President William Green that his agency will do everything possible to avoid unnecessary job layoffs because of rigid government controls over metals and other scarce materials.

Replying to Mr. Green's request that exemptions from the rigid controls on materials be granted where need is shown, Mr. Fleischmann said:

"In substance, requests for relief are granted where there is sufficient indication that:

"(a) The labor force should be kept intact while the company is converting to defense production or awaiting action on a defense contract, especially in cases which involve layoffs of skilled workers and possible dilution of their skills in other employment;

"(b) The workers laid off are unable to find employment elsewhere with resulting hardship to them and the community to the detriment of the national welfare."

Mr. Fleischmann said all cases where either dislocation of labor or unemployment is a determining factor are referred to the Office of Labor, NPA.

He said also that NPA is urging procurement agencies to pay particular attention to problems of the smaller plants most affected by NPA material-conservation orders.

"Positive assistance is being given to small business in the way of materials supply, information regarding prime and sub-contracts, and authorization to construct and help expand their facilities for defense production," Mr. Fleischmann said.

Mr. Green had told Mr. Fleischmann and Defense Mobilization Director Charles E. Wilson that there are many cases where the limitations imposed on the use of metals had forced or soon will force substantial layoffs of the very workers soon to be needed in defense production.

He appealed also for greater help for small business.

FILM LABOR GOALS

New York.—The Twentieth Century Fund is making a documentary film, "Working Together: A Case History of Labor-Management Cooperation," to be released early in 1952.

The fund said it will illustrate by case history the 4 goals of labor as security, a chance to advance, more human treatment, and more dignity on the job.

It will show the 4 goals of management to be the economic welfare of the company, good relations with loyal employes, freedom to manage and businesslike responsible relations.

Meany Calls for Start Now For New Congress, T-H Repeal

Washington.—The record of the 82d Congress is so feeble because the people are not paying enough attention.

But the entire House of Representatives and one-third of the Senate must stand for re-election next year.

Now is the time for every local union to start plans for registering all AFL members, their families and friends to vote in 1952 for a Congress which will truly represent the American people and repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

Those are the important points laid down by AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany in a new pamphlet, "Our Job for 1952." Copies are available to AFL unions in quantity lots by ordering through Mr. Meany.)

Mr. Meany said that the Supreme Court decisions of June 4, 1951, established the principle that it is the intention of Congress, under the Taft-Hartley law, that union men cannot refuse to work alongside of nonunion men.

He said the Taft-Hartley law had thus achieved what employers could not accomplish under the union-busting American Plan sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers in 1921.

"We are never going to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act until we put into Congress men and women friendly to the ideals and principles of this great labor movement," Mr. Meany said.

"Organizing political machinery through Labor's League for Political Education is hard work. It is not just a question of making a talk and then forgetting it. It is hard, laborious work. But bad as the Taft-Hartley Law is, it still leaves every local union in this country free to take the initial step in that work.

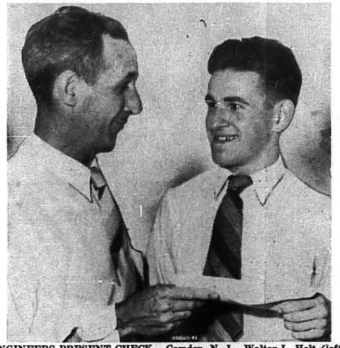
"There is nothing on the statute books that will prevent a local union from initiating and carrying through a campaign and using its funds to finance that campaign in order to get its own members to go to the polls on election day. This every local union can do and this really is the first step in the difficult job of getting to the polls the votes of our people, the votes of our families and our friends.

"And if we get our families, and our own members and our friends, to the polls, we don't have to worry about the results. We know how they will vote. We know they are going to vote for people who are going to give some consideration to the welfare and interests of the great masses of wage earners who in reality are the wealth of this great country.

"All State Federations of Labor, all city and central bodies, should give some thought to this problem. The job has got to be done in every precinct, it has got to be done in every district. There is no voting in Washington. Congressmen are elected out in the field. The job has to be done locally.

"This is a long range project. We are not going to do it in 6 months or a year. It can be done. Labor can prove, as it met the challenge of the past, as it met the drive for the American Plan, as it met the starvation attempt, as it met tear gas and company thugs, as it met the anti-labor injunction, that it can meet this political threat.

"Let's get started now to do the most effective job in our power in the next election and in 1952."



ENGINEERS PRESENT CHECK.—Camden, N. J.—Walter L. Holt (left), president Local 241 AFL International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen, presents $50 check to Viktor Verosta, outstanding student of drafting at Camden County Vocational School. Local 241, most of whose members are employed at Radio Corporation of America, will make the award annually. Mr. Verosta came to this country two years ago as a displaced person after early life in Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Austria.

PEARL NAMED

Boston, Mass.—AFL Public Relations Director Philip Pearl was appointed a member of the board of visitors of Boston University's School of Public Relations and Communications.

Included on the board with Mr. Pearl are Harold Brayman, director public relations E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co.; Oscar Hammerstein 2d, and Erwin D. Canham, editor Christian Science Monitor, and others.

BUILDING SERVICE AWARDS.—New York.—New York County District Attorney Frank S. Hogan (left) and AFL Vice President William L. McFetridge (right), president Building Service Employes, smile approvingly as Miss Jean T. Palmer (second from left), general secretary Barnard College, presents certificate of scholarship award to Miss Norma D. Santos, 18, daughter of maintenance worker at Rockefeller Center, winner of one of Local 32-B scholarships for 4 years, worth $4,800, to Columbia University. The three other winners, all sons of Local 32-B members, are Gerard A. Hein, Ronald P. McPhee, Evans Gerakas.

Taft-Hartley Hurts New England Area

Boston.—The Taft-Hartley Act has had the effect of freezing New England and the South in the comparative unionization positions which they had reached prior to its passage.

That is the conclusion of a distinguished committee of private citizens, including a representative of the Boston Federal Reserve Bank, in a report, "The New England Economy," made for President Truman's Council of Economic Advisers.

This means that because Taft-Hartley has blocked the advance of unionism in the South, with its higher wage and working standards, New England continues at the competitive disadvantage it has experienced for so long. The committee said:

"The changes favorable to employers in the act, such as the so-called 'free speech amendment' and the encouragement the act gave to anti-union employers, have retarded the growth of trade unionism in the South.

"Since the South was already less unionized, the Taft-Hartley Act helped to maintain the region's competitive advantage. It affected adversely the labor cost position of New England manufacturers in their competition with the South by retarding the equalization of labor conditions," astrous flood.

Machinists Raise Flood Relief Fund

Washington.—The AFL International Association of Machinists officially circularized member lodges for contributions to a fund for relief and rehabilitation of 6,000 to 8,000 machinists' families in the Kansas City, Mo., flood area.

Contributions should be sent to Secretary-Treasurer Eric Peterson at international headquarters here. The distribution will be handled by a 6-man emergency relief committee picked by General Vice President P. L. Siemiller.

Committee members, all from the Kansas City area, are Grand Lodge Representative Ernest M. Gibson, chairman; Clif Miller, general chairman IAM District 142, TWA; Allen J. Buckley, general chairman, IAM District 36, Rock Island Railroad, and Business Representatives Clare McMullen, Lodge 92; James R. Stufflebeam, Lodge 778; Thomas F. Lydon, Lodge 314.

Many other AFL unions moved to help stricken members in the flood area of Kansas and Missouri.

Meanwhile in Washington Sen. James E. Murray of Montana reintroduced legislation to establish a Missouri Valley Authority—a project which would have averted the dis-

GERMAN LEADERS VISIT AFL.—Washington.—AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany gave assurance of American labor friendship to Germany's free democratic trade unions through these leaders during visit to AFL headquarters: Hermann Beermann, Hannover; Friedrich Greve, Hannover-Muenden; Richard Heimberg, Hannover-Kleefeld; Carl Kamp, Frankfurt-on-Main; Ernst Leuninger, Frankfurt-on-Main-Schwanheim; Ludwig Mueller, Hannover; Johannes Perner, Frankfurt-on-Main; Johann Platte, Essen; Georg Rand, Oberhausen-on-Rhld; Rudolf Saalfeld, Hamburg-Lokstedt; Herbert Wuestenhoefer, Frankfurt-on-Main, and Karl Schicker.

3 Congresses Prove Wisdom of LLPE

Washington.—The past 3 Congresses offer an answer to the question: Why did the AFL establish Labor's League for Political Education?

1946—Labor stayed away from the polls and the Republican 80th Congress was elected. It passed the Taft-Hartley Law in 1947.

1948—Labor mobilized behind President Truman and elected the Democratic 81st Congress including many liberal Republicans and Democrats. It increased social security benefits for the first time since the law was passed; raised the minimum wage from 40 to 75 cents an hour; created a national low-rent and public housing program; authorized a union shop on the nation's railroads.

1950—Labor stayed away from the polls again and the Dixiecrat-GOP 82d Congress was elected. So far the Congress has passed few important legislative measures and appears to be destined to out-worse the second-worst 80th.

1952—If working men begin to savvy the meaning of this record, there'll be a Congress so strong that the Taft-Hartley Law will be repealed.

MEET AT RUTGERS

New Brunswick.—For the first time in its history, the Hudson Shore Labor School conducted sessions off its own campus at Rutgers University this summer. The oldest residential labor school in the United States, the school met on the campus where the Rutgers Labor Institute was pioneered and has been continued for 21 years.

Now is the time to buy bonds.

MIDWEST BUILDING TRADES LEADERS.—Chicago.—Leaders of AFL Building and Construction Trades Councils in 8 midwestern states formed a regional conference at shirt-sleeve clinic with Building and Construction Trades Department President Richard J. Gray and Secretary-Treasurer Joseph D. Keenan, fourth and fifth from right, back row.

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